

Directorate of
Intelligence

Secret

993

Terrorism Review

14 June 1990

Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

Secret

Copy

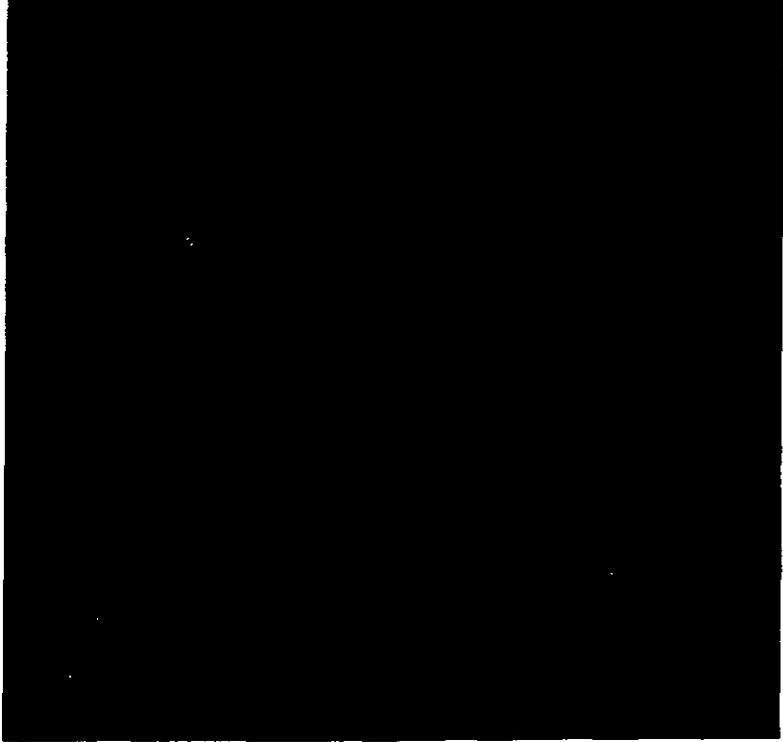
514

246

2248

~~Secret~~

NR



Latin America

Chile

Leftist Terrorist Activity Continues

At least 12 bombs were set around Santiago in two apparently coordinated bombing attacks on 14 May and 21 May, hitting the US Consulate and two Mormon chapels, among other largely foreign targets. The attacks caused only minor damage. The two sets of bombings as well as the 10 May assassination of a retired Carabinero colonel—accused of human rights violations—are thought to have been carried out by members of the dissident faction of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR/D). Responsibility has not been claimed for a bomb that killed a Chilean explosives expert 4 June, or for the bombings of several Mormon churches throughout Chile. Hardline Chilean terrorist groups have continued to execute low-level terrorist activities in recent months despite Communist Party of Chile (PCC) efforts to curb terrorist operations. For more on the subject, see the article appearing in this issue entitled "Chile: Prospects for Terrorism."



~~Secret~~

~~Secret~~

Chile: Prospects for Terrorism [redacted]

Recent shifts in international and domestic politics are frustrating Chilean far-left terrorist groups, making increased violence over the next year likely. The groups will probably be unable to sustain terrorist campaigns over the longer term, however, because of their continued disunity and declining political and financial support. [redacted]

Swimming Against the Moderate Tide

During the past decade, terrorist groups of various stripes have advocated violence to unseat dictator Augusto Pinochet and avenge human rights abuses by his regime. These organizations launched well-organized assaults on public officials and government facilities, employing assassinations, bombings, and rocket attacks. Although they targeted US interests less often, they became very active in mounting anti-US attacks following the US intervention in Panama. [redacted]

The terrorists still cling to their strategy of armed struggle despite the new political climate resulting from the end of the 16-year Pinochet dictatorship and from reformist trends in the Communist movement worldwide. As the organized left, particularly the Communist Party (PCCb), has tried to stake out political space in newly democratic Chile, it has shown increasing reluctance to sanction violence and has attempted to rein in terrorist groups. [redacted]

[redacted] The Communists succeeded in curbing operations by the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR)—formed in 1983 with PCCb support—during the October 1988 plebiscite and the election last December. They reportedly have only limited influence with the other hardline groups—notably the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front/Dissidents (FPMR/D), a radical splinter group formed in 1987, and the Lautaro Youth organization. The FPMR/D has been responsible for much of the terrorist violence over the past year. [redacted]

The Human Rights Issue

Chilean President Aylwin's cautious approach in addressing human rights abuses of the Pinochet regime may also foment greater terrorist activity over the short term. The President has been careful to avoid a confrontation with the military and with Pinochet in his current capacity as Army Commander, stressing the need to seek redress for the victims rather than revenge. Accordingly, Aylwin has placed strict limits on his newly created commission to investigate human rights violations of the Pinochet era and has said publicly he will consider pardons once the truth is out. [redacted]

We believe terrorists may play on the heightened public attention to human rights, using violence to vent their frustration with Aylwin's caution and to press him to adopt a hardline approach. [redacted]

[redacted] In March, the FPMR/D attempted to kill former junta member retired Air Force Gen. Gustavo Leigh, accused of ordering widespread human rights abuses in the weeks following the 1973 coup against then President Salvador Allende. Last month, former police colonel Luis Fontaine—implicated in the deaths of three Communist activists—was killed; the FPMR/D is a prime suspect. [redacted]

~~Secret~~

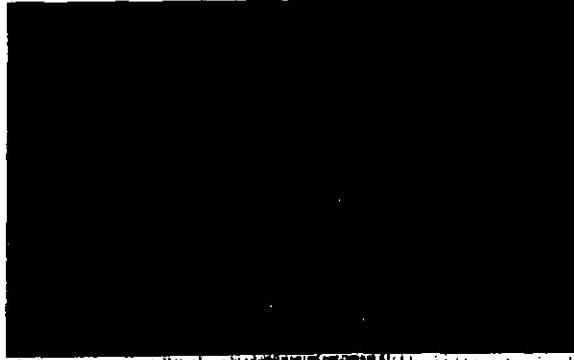
~~SI TO~~

~~14 June 1990~~

~~Secret~~

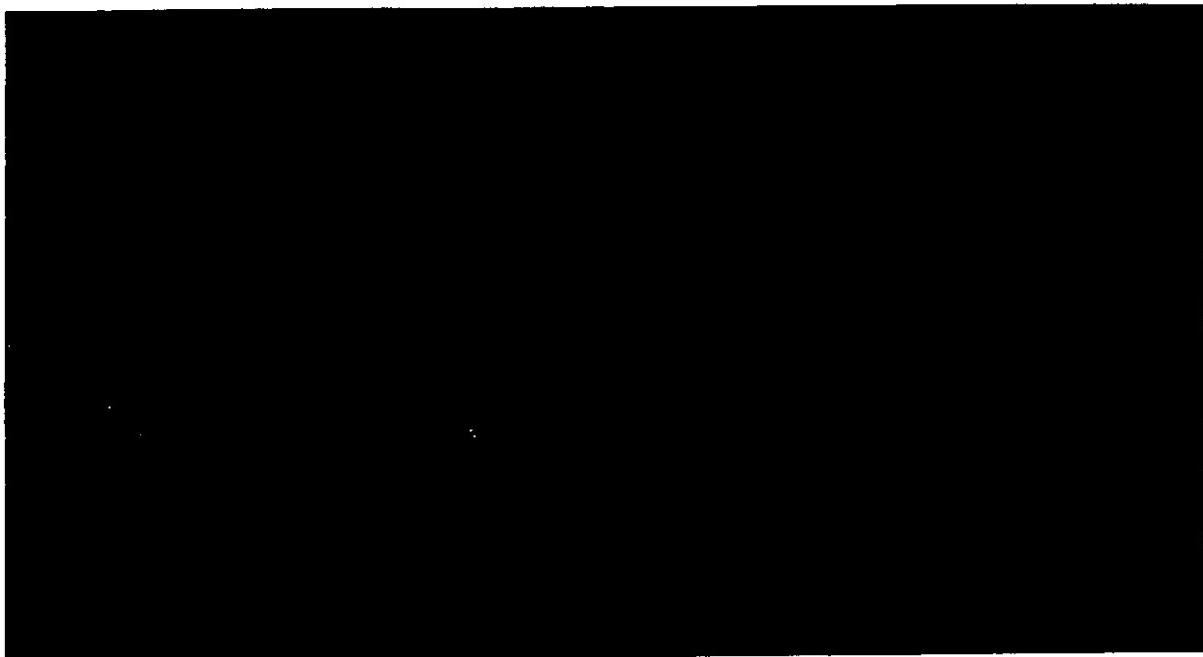


The radical left continues to view Pinochet as a threat, moreover, believing he could regain control of the government. It may see increased violence as a way to provoke a face-off between Aylwin and the General. [REDACTED]



Obstacles to Terrorist Offensive

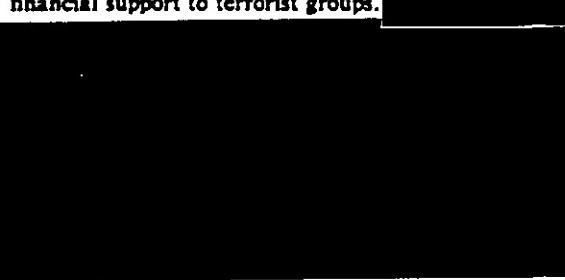
We believe Chilean leftists will be unable to sustain long-term terrorist campaigns because of their failure to coordinate activities and the decline of outside support. Although the groups reportedly maintain



low-level contacts, their efforts to unify over the years have failed. Popular rejection of extremism, demonstrated by the election of Aylwin's centrist coalition, has intensified efforts by terrorist organizations to unify, according to an untested source, but each has its own view of the strategy an alliance should employ.

Moreover, the far-left political parties are likely to be pressed by the government and the public to halt financial support to terrorist groups.

left a stake in the success of democratic government. Inclusion of the left in the political process and even moderate attention to its agenda of socioeconomic reform would help isolate terrorist groups and undercut their appeal to prospective recruits. Moreover, if the government succeeds in strengthening its intelligence apparatus and improving Chile's human rights record, the terrorists would have reason to reconsider the efficacy of armed struggle.



Long-term prospects for Chilean terrorist organizations will be largely determined by the performance of Aylwin's administration and his ability to give the far